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H04B 7/08, H01Q 9/26

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60/152,859 8 September 1999 (08.09.1999) US

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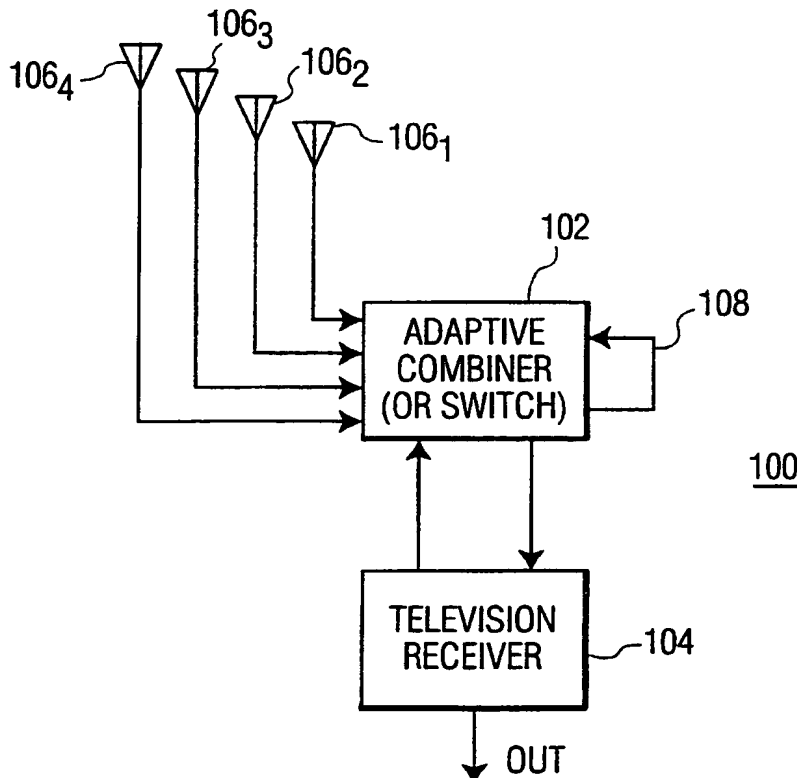
(74) Agents: **TRIPOLI, Joseph, S.** et al.; Thomson multimedia Licencing Inc., P.O. Box 5312, Princeton, NJ 08540 (US).

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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR REDUCING MULTIPATH DISTORTION IN A TELEVISION SIGNAL



(57) Abstract: A method and apparatus for reducing multipath distortion in a television signal includes a plurality of antenna elements for receiving spatially unique replicas of a desired television signal. The plurality of spatially unique replicas of the television signal are coupled to an adaptive combiner for generating a spatially combined signal to be input to a television receiver.

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Published:

— with international search report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:

20 September 2001

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference RCA 89783	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/US 00/ 24708	International filing date (day/month/year) 08/09/2000	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 08/09/1999
Applicant THOMSON LICENSING S.A. et al.		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 6 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

- b. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing :

☐ contained in the international application in written form.

☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

☐ the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

☐ the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. ☐ **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box I).

3. ☐ **Unity of invention is lacking** (see Box II).

4. With regard to the **title**,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the **abstract**,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No.

☒ as suggested by the applicant.

☐ because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

☐ because this figure better characterizes the invention.

1
☐ None of the figures.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US 00/24708

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:

3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. ☒ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark n Pr test

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☒ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. Claims: 1-8

Apparatus for reducing multipath distorsion in a television signal.

2. Claims: 9-13

Loop antenna.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

/US 00/24708

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 H04N5/21 H04B7/08 H01Q9/26

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 H04N H04B H01Q

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

PAJ, WPI Data, EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4 100 496 A (AKIYOSHI TSUYOSHI ET AL) 11 July 1978 (1978-07-11) column 2, line 30 - line 44 column 5, line 5 - line 17; figure 4 ---	1,5
A	GB 2 257 605 A (BRENNAN PAUL VICTOR) 13 January 1993 (1993-01-13) page 1, paragraph 7 -page 2, paragraph 1; figure 1 ---	1,3,5,6
A	US 4 497 067 A (NAMIKI JUNJI) 29 January 1985 (1985-01-29) column 1, line 53 - line 25 column 3, line 34 - line 61; figure 2 --- -/--	1,5

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

26 February 2001

Date of mailing of the international search report

09.03.2001

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2

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Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Fuchs, P

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

/US 00/24708

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 4 498 885 A (NAMIKI JUNJI) 12 February 1985 (1985-02-12) column 1, line 42 -column 2, line 2 column 3, line 61 -column 4, line 38; figures 1,4-6 ---	1,5
A	EP 0 221 475 A (TOKYO SHIBAURA ELECTRIC CO) 13 May 1987 (1987-05-13) the whole document ---	1
A	US 4 397 041 A (TAKEDA SHIGEKI ET AL) 2 August 1983 (1983-08-02) abstract column 2, line 41 -column 3, line 12; figures 1,2 column 3, line 35 -column 4, line 64; figure 3 ---	1,3,5
A	US 4 338 606 A (TADA MASAHIRO ET AL) 6 July 1982 (1982-07-06) column 1, line 58 -column 2, line 16 column 2, line 47 -column 3, line 45; figures 1,2 ---	9,11
A	DE 34 27 629 A (SIEMENS AG) 30 January 1986 (1986-01-30) page 4, line 5 - line 21 page 9, line 29 -page 11, line 30; figure 2 -----	9

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

US 00/24708

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 4100496	A	11-07-1978	JP 1257797 C	29-03-1985
			JP 52060046 A	18-05-1977
			JP 59031241 B	01-08-1984
			CA 1078957 A	03-06-1980
			GB 1568235 A	29-05-1980
GB 2257605	A	13-01-1993	NONE	
US 4497067	A	29-01-1985	JP 59013441 A	24-01-1984
			AU 559343 B	05-03-1987
			AU 1680883 A	19-01-1984
			CA 1203849 A	29-04-1986
			DE 3374258 D	03-12-1987
			EP 0099113 A	25-01-1984
US 4498885	A	12-02-1985	JP 59013442 A	24-01-1984
			AU 563228 B	02-07-1987
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EP 0221475	A	13-05-1987	JP 62100034 A	09-05-1987
			DE 3683444 A	27-02-1992
US 4397041	A	02-08-1983	JP 56122503 A	26-09-1981
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			DE 3108029 A	14-01-1982
			GB 2089578 A,B	23-06-1982
US 4338606	A	06-07-1982	JP 55085106 A	26-06-1980
			JP 55085105 A	26-06-1980
			AU 532289 B	22-09-1983
			AU 5396579 A	26-06-1980
			CA 1128654 A	27-07-1982
			DE 2951875 A	10-07-1980
			FR 2445041 A	18-07-1980
			GB 2039152 A,B	30-07-1980
			NL 7909206 A,B,	24-06-1980
DE 3427629	A	30-01-1986	NONE	

REC'D 16 JAN 2002

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

12



Applicant's or agent's file reference RCA 89783	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/US00/24708	International filing date (day/month/year) 08/09/2000	Priority date (day/month/year) 08/09/1999
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC H04N5/21		
Applicant THOMSON LICENSING S.A. et al.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 8 sheets, including this cover sheet.
 - ☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☒ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☒ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 04/04/2001	Date of completion of this report 14.01.2002
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized officer Loeser, E Telephone No. +49 89 2399 8482 

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference RCA 89783	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/US00/24708	International filing date (day/month/year) 08/09/2000	Priority date (day/month/year) 08/09/1999
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC H04N5/21		
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- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☒ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 04/04/2001	Date of completion of this report 14.01.2002
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized officer Loeser, E Telephone No. +49 89 2399 8482



INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/US00/24708

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, pages:

1-11 as originally filed

Claims, No.:

1-13 as originally filed

Drawings, sheets:

1-7 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☐ the claims, Nos.:

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/US00/24708

☐ the drawings, sheets:

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

IV. Lack of unity of invention

1. In response to the invitation to restrict or pay additional fees the applicant has:

- ☐ restricted the claims.
☒ paid additional fees.
☐ paid additional fees under protest.
☐ neither restricted nor paid additional fees.

2. ☐ This Authority found that the requirement of unity of invention is not complied and chose, according to Rule 68.1, not to invite the applicant to restrict or pay additional fees.

3. This Authority considers that the requirement of unity of invention in accordance with Rules 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3 is

- ☐ complied with.
☒ not complied with for the following reasons:
see separate sheet

4. Consequently, the following parts of the international application were the subject of international preliminary examination in establishing this report:

- ☒ all parts.
☐ the parts relating to claims Nos. .

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims	2-4,6-8,10,11,13
	No:	Claims	1,5,9,12
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims	10,13
	No:	Claims	1-9,11,12

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/US00/24708

Industrial applicability (IA) Yes: Claims 1-13
 No: Claims

2. Citations and explanations
see separate sheet

VII. Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:
see separate sheet

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/US00/24708

1. General

The present application does not satisfy the criteria set forth in Rule 13 and Articles 33(2) and 33(3) PCT. Details of the objections are set out below.

2. Concerning Section IV - Rule 13.1 /Rule 13.2 PCT (Unity)

In agreement with the findings set out in the International Search Report it is considered that the application lacks unity (Rule 13(1) PCT contravened).

The following separate inventions/groups of inventions are identified:

Group I : Claims 1-8 (main invention: adaptive diversity reception for reducing multipath distortion, using a multi-element antenna);

Group II: Claims 9-13 (multi-element loop antenna forming a circular arrangement).

The different groups identified above are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept (Rule 13.1 PCT).

3. Concerning Section V - Articles 33(2) and 33(3) PCT

The following documents are cited - the numbering will be adhered to in the rest of the procedure:

D1: US-A-4 100 496;
D2: GB-A-2 257 605;
D3: US-A-4 497 067;
D4: US-A-4 498 885;
D5: EP-A-0 221 475;
D6: US-A-4 397 041;
D7: US-A-4 338 606;
D8: DE-A-3 427 629;
D9: US-A-5 784 032.

Document D9 is cited from the examiner's own knowledge (see

Guidelines, C-VI, 8.9). A copy of the document is annexed to the communication.

3.1 Claims of group I

3.1.1. The subject-matter of claim 1 is anticipated by the disclosure of any of D1 (abstract), D3 (abstract), D4 (abstract), D5 (abstract), D6 (abstract), D7 (abstract), D9 (abstract; Figs. 29A,B). Thus the claim contravenes Art. 33(2) and (3) PCT.

The same findings apply to claim 5.

3.1.2. As to claim 2, it is considered common practice in diversity reception using plural antenna elements to provide one feed port for each antenna element. The skilled person would also consider using any kind of well-known antenna types, including ones of the loop type (cf D6 (abstract), D7 (abstract), D8 (abstract), D9 (abstract)) in accordance with his/her particular requirements. D7, D8 and D9 further disclose feed points for the respective plural loop antenna elements disposed around the perimeter thereof. Thus all additional features of claim 2 are known in the art and thus cannot establish an inventive step (Art. 33(3) PCT contravened).

3.1.3. As to claim 3, it is common practice in the art to provide tuning or matching elements at antenna feed ports (cf eg D6: abstract; D7: Fig. 2; D9: Fig. 29A). Moreover, it is common practice in diversity reception to provide for each of plural antenna elements a variable phase and/or gain function so as to enable appropriate weighting of the respective signals in order to obtain an optimal summed signal (cf eg D1 (abstract); D2 (abstract which shows equivalent baseband weighting at the output of a receiver module provided for each antenna element); D6 (abstract disclosing on/off weighting by switching - ref. 12). Finally, it is obvious that under (typically variable) multipath conditions such as with mobile reception, the weighting for the different antenna elements cannot be carried out manually in an optimum manner. Thus the skilled person is led to provide a control processor for this task (cf eg D2: abstract; D3: abstract;

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

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D4: abstract; D9: Fig. 29A). The task implicitly requires an algorithm to control the weighting and deriving a figure of merit. In light of the above, the additional features of claim 3 cannot establish an inventive step (Art. 33(3) PCT contravened).

These findings correspondingly apply to claims 6 and 7.

3.1.4 The additional features of claims 4 and 8 are also considered obvious design options (Art. 33(3) PCT contravened).

3.2 Claims of group II

3.2.1. Claim 9: Loop antennas having plural conductive strips arranged in a circular pattern are known in the art (D7: abstract; D8 (abstract); D9 (abstract)). D8 discloses strips each comprising at least one narrowed portion 8, a feed point 7 comprising a gap defined by the at least one narrowed portions, and a signal coupler 13,14 proximate the feed point. Thus it is considered that the subject-matter of claim 1 lacks novelty in light of the disclosure of D8 (Art. 33(2), (3) PCT contravened).

3.2.2. The additional features of claim 11 are well-known in the art and thus obvious design options (cf section 3.1.3 above).

3.2.3. D8 anticipates the circular substrate claimed in claim 12. Thus the claim contravenes Art. 33(2) and (3) PCT.

3.2.4. The additional features of any of claims 10 and 13 do not appear to be disclosed in or rendered obvious from any of the presently available documents representing the prior art.

4. Concerning Section VII: Description and other belongings

4.1. The claims are not cast in the two-part form as required by Rule 6.3(b) PCT.

4.2. The claims are not complemented with reference signs as required by Rule 6.2(b) PCT.

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/US00/24708

4.3. A document reflecting the prior art described on page 1 is not identified in the description (Rule 5.1(a)(ii) PCT).

4.4. Contrary to the requirements of Rule 5.1(a)(ii) PCT, the relevant background art disclosed in the documents D1-D9 cited above is not mentioned in the description, nor are these documents identified therein.

4.5. Following from the provisions of the PCT Preliminary Examination Guidelines Chapter II 4.17, statements such as "incorporated by reference" as presently found on page 1 (lines 5-6) of the description should be removed from the description unless the referenced matter is essential to satisfy the requirements of Art. 5 PCT. In such a particular case, respective subject-matter may and shall be explicitly included in the description, given that particular criteria set out in the cited section of the Guidelines are simultaneously met.

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

EXPRESS ER 90232148

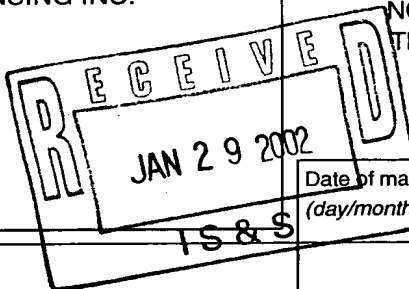
From the
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

PCT

To:

TRIPOLI, Joseph S.
THOMSON MULTIMEDIA LICENSING INC.
P.O. Box 5312
Princeton, New Jersey 08540
ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE

KA



NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF
THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT
(PCT Rule 71.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year)

14.01.2002

Applicant's or agent's file reference
RCA 89783

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

International application No.
PCT/US00/24708

International filing date (day/month/year)
08/09/2000

Priority date (day/month/year)
08/09/1999

Applicant

THOMSON LICENSING S.A. et al.

1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary examination report and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.
2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.
3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.

4. REMINDER

The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices) (Article 39(1)) (see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/IB/301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

Event	Amend	Final Country Sel.
Deadline	5 Feb 2002	To David
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